

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method for generating a high-velocity cutting jet comprises the steps of forming a high-velocity jet of [[a]] liquid water, forming a suspension of an abrasive material in a carrier gas comprising ~~a~~condensable vapour~~steam~~, and so entraining the suspension of abrasive material into the liquid water jet that at least part of the vapour~~steam~~ condenses to produce a jet of a mixture comprising abrasive material and liquid water.
2. ***(Original)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suspension of abrasive material in carrier gas is provided at above ambient pressure.
3. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said condensation of the vapour~~steam~~ produces a pressure close to ambient pressure.
4. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier gas also comprises a gas that is not condensable when entrained into the liquid jet.
5. ***(Cancelled)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vapour is condensable to form said liquid.
6. ***(Cancelled)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid comprises water.
7. ***(Cancelled)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the condensable vapour comprises steam.
8. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entrainment step is performed at least partially within a restricted bore of a nozzle means.
9. ***(Original)*** A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the entrainment step performed at least partially within chamber means traversed by the liquid jet before entering said nozzle means.

10. *(Previously Presented)* A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of introducing at least one of condensable vapour and non-condensable gas into the liquid jet subsequently to the entrainment of the abrasive suspension.
11. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus for generating a high-velocity cutting jet, comprising means to form for forming a high-velocity jet of liquid water, means to form for forming a suspension of an abrasive material in a carrier gas comprising a condensable vapoursteam, and means to entrain for entraining said suspension into the jet of liquid so that at least part of the vapoursteam condenses to produce a jet of a mixture comprising abrasive material and liquid water.
12. *(Cancelled)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the liquid comprises water.
13. *(Cancelled)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the condensable vapour comprises steam.
14. *(Previously Presented)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the carrier gas also comprises a gas that is not condensable when entrained into the liquid jet.
15. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for forming a liquid jet forming means comprises a source of liquid under pressure so connected to a restricted orifice means that the liquid is projected therefrom as a high-velocity jet.
16. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, provided with further comprising a nozzle means having an elongate bore extending between an inlet and outlet thereof and so substantially aligned with the liquid jet projected from the orifice means that said jet may pass therethrough.
17. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle means comprises a substantially parallel-sided bore.
18. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle means comprises a bore tapering between the inlet and the outlet of the nozzle means.
19. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the nozzle means comprises a plurality of nozzle sections, a bore of each said nozzle section being substantially

aligned with the liquid jet.

20. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein further comprising means is provided to introduce for introducing one or more flows of at least one of said condensable vapour steam and non-condensable gas into the nozzle means intermediate of the inlet and outlet thereof.

21. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, provided with further comprising a chamber means disposed between the orifice means and the nozzle means, which is traversed by the liquid jet and into which the suspension of abrasive material in carrier gas is passed so as to be entrained into the liquid jet.

22. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 21, provided with further comprising a frustoconical transition zone connecting the chamber means to the inlet of the nozzle means.

23. *(Currently Amended)* Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means to form for forming a suspension of abrasive material in a carrier gas comprises means to generate for generating a flow of said condensable vapour steam, a supply of abrasive material and means to meter for metering the abrasive material into said flow.